

July 15, 2025

Statement from the Student Caucus re the 2025-2026 Exam Materials Policy

Hi everyone,

As you may already know, Osgoode's administration recently made the decision to transition all in-person exams from Examplify's Semi-Secure Mode to Full-Secure Mode for the upcoming academic year. This means that students will no longer be able to access their digital summaries, e-textbooks, or other digital materials during exams. The only thing students will be able to access on their computers during exams is Examplify. This also means that students will only be able to access printed materials during in-person exams.

This decision was prompted by the use of offline generative AI during another law school's exams this past year. Given that the risk and potential consequences of students using, attempting to use, or being perceived to have used generative AI in exams is high, the administration wants to prevent any similar occurrences at Osgoode.

The decision to implement these new exam format requirements was made unilaterally by a group of Osgoode administrators during May and June 2025. While a notice was sent to faculty following the decision in mid-to-late June, Student Caucus was notified only of this decision at the end of the workday on Friday, 4 July. Neither the Student Caucus nor the Academic Policy and Planning Committee were consulted during the process that led to this change and the Caucus was not given the opportunity to advocate for student interests prior to the decision being finalized. The Student Caucus does not rubber-stamp administrative decisions, nor do we operate as an extension of the faculty administration.

While we are disappointed by the closed nature of this decision-making process, our current position is that we understand the need to protect academic integrity. Recent technological advancements have drastically expanded the range of capabilities available to students. The real or perceived use of generative AI during examinations can have real and significant consequences both for individual students and Osgoode as an institution.

With the Course Selection already underway and the deadline swiftly approaching, we chose to release as much information as we could as soon as we were sure of the details. We understand many of you are concerned by this change. As your

student representatives on Faculty Council and in dealings with Osgoode's administration, we're doing everything in our power to minimise the impact of this decision on students, and to advocate for a more transparent decision-making process going forward.

Although the decision to eliminate digital materials from in-person exams was presented as final, the Student Caucus promptly questioned how the change might profoundly affect students. We've been working on short-, medium-, and long-term advocacy efforts:

- We have raised concerns to the administration about:
 - the financial and environmental impacts of mandatory printing both on students and Osgoode's environment;
 - barriers to accessing accommodations, and followed up via Student Services and York Accommodations to ensure that, as always, students with documentation who require access to certain accommodations will have their needs addressed promptly;
- We have reached out to L&L, who are now discussing how to support students financially, as well as exploring options to make a Student Caucus printer available for students to use at-cost;
- We are following up with Examplify to learn whether there are options within Osgoode's current contract that would allow for the use of certain digital materials (such as textbooks and summaries) while curtailing the use of generative AI programs;
- We have been in talks with the Chair of the Academic Policy and Planning Committee to confirm whether the decision to go to "Full Secure" in itself was made properly;
- We are requesting that administrators make themselves available for an online Town Hall session where they can answer student questions;
- We are collecting student concerns, as well as releasing a survey this week, in order to present your concerns to administration;
- We are researching alternatives to Examplify in order to make proposals to administration about switching service providers, in order to ensure access to digital materials in the future
 - Note that procurement timelines remain uncertain due to Osgoode's contract with the software vendor continuing through the 2025-2026 academic year and the requirement that any change be approved by York University's Senate;
- We proposed alternative solutions, including additional in-person proctoring to prevent academic dishonesty without requiring printed materials. The administration stated these were unfeasible given Osgoode's financial situation
 - The SC has already been preparing a publication on the Osgoode budget for release in the early Fall for students to review;

- We are beginning early-stage discussions with the Academic Policy and Planning Committee and Teaching and the Learning Committee regarding alternate exam-delivery options, including take-home assessments.

The Student Caucus's mandate is to advocate for and represent the interests of the student body and, in doing so, serve as the official channel of communication between students and the school's administration. We are aware that these changes have sparked real and legitimate concern and worry among students. To this end, we are presently collating a comprehensive list of concerns and feedback which will be presented to the administration at the end of this week, for discussion at an anticipated Town Hall in the near future.

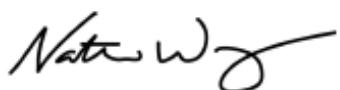
We encourage you to reach out to any of the Caucus Executives or your Caucus representatives with your thoughts, concerns, and questions, as your input is essential to how we shape our advocacy strategy.

Sincerely,

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Nathan Wong, Vice Chair



Kimberly Nguyen, Director of Communications,



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